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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1955

SUBJECT Fall Maneuvers of the Reinforced Third Shock Army

NO. OF PAGES 10

PLACE
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(LISTED BELOW)

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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Between 17 September and 16 November 1954,
maneuvers of the Third Shock Army were received

reports on the fall

The information was forwarded in 64 military reports, which are summarized and evaluated as follows:

The exercise which, including the movements to and from the exercise area, lasted from 25 September to 7 October 1954, developed in four phases:

- 1 - 27 September Advance shipments of directing headquarters and engineer units (paragraph 2)
- 25 - 28 September Arrival in the Wiesenburg-Belzig-Brueck assembly area of the (paragraph 3) attack party (reinforced IX Mzt Rifle Corps)
- 29 - 3 October Development of the exercise from the southeast (Altengrabow (paragraph 4) training grounds) toward the northwest (Letzling Heath) with crossing of the Elbe River.
- 4 - 7 October Return shipments to the posts from the Letzling Heath area. (paragraph 5)

2. Advance shipments of the directing headquarters and engineer units of GSFG and the Second and Fourth Gds Mech Army to the exercise area between 1 and 17 September included:

6 small shipments of signal units of the Eighth Gds Army (from Apolda to Wiesenburg), the First Gds Mecz Army (from Dresden to Wiesenburg), the HQ GSFG (from Wuensdorf to Altengrabow and Hoetensleben), the Third Gds Mecz Army (from Trebbin to Altengrabow) and the Fourth Gds Mecz Army (from Eberswalde to Colbitz). These units were probably to prepare signal communications for the directing headquarters. Radio monitoring details were possibly employed on the zonal border near Hoetensleben west of Magdeburg. Engineer units moved to Altengrabow and the Elbe section between Burg and Ferchland (Jerichow ?).

Between 12 and 19 September, the following shipments went to Altengrabow:

4 shipments of units of the engineer regiment Bernburg of the GSFG and one shipment each of elements of the 22d Gds Engr Bn of the 6th Gds Mecz Div, the 90th Gds Engr Bn of the 9th Gds Tank Div and the 205th Engr Bn of the 12th Gds Tank Div.

Between 11 and 27 September, the following shipments went to the above mentioned Elbe sections:

Engr Regt Bernburg: elements with amphibious vehicles from Sperenberg to Guesen (3 shipments, in addition to 1 shipment with amphibious vehicles from

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88th Bngr Regt/Second Gds Mecz Army (2 shipments);
 3d Bngr Regt/Fourth Gds Mecz Army (2 shipments);
 Bngr Bn/IX Mtz Rifle Corps (1 shipment);
 Unidentified engineer units (4 shipments);
 36th Bridge Bldg Regt of the GSFG from Magdeburg by road.
 Thus, 20 shipments of engineer units of the Second and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies and the two engineer regiments of the GSFG were observed en route to the exercise area. Since, in addition to these units, engineer units of the Third Shock Army, engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army and the 7th Gds Tank Div which were observed during their departure also participated in the exercise, a total of approximately 30 engineer battalions is believed to have been employed. This tends to indicate that the employment of engineer units was one of the main problems of the exercise. For details, see paragraph 4 d.
 Between 12 and 22 September, a base similar to a day time fuel supply base, which was supplied from Magdeburg, was prepared by the Third Shock Army in the Stuelper Forst east of Jueterbog.

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3. Between 25 and 28 September, the attack party (Red Party) assembled in the Wittenburg-Balsig-Bruock area. Armed elements arrived from posts and training grounds by rail and wheeled elements by road. The large distances covered by road are worth noting since it is known that the Soviets usually prefer rail shipments in order to save transport and fuel. Since, however, movements by road were also reported by other units, it is probable that this was a deliberate decision to use road transport for training purposes. This year's exercise, in its nature and the distances covered, was similar to the training exercise of 1955.

- a. Elements of the following units were observed en route to the exercise area by road:
 Corps units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps from Schwerin;
 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div from Schwerin, Wismar and Hagenow, with some of the units proceeding west of the Elbe River via Wolmirstedt-Magdeburg toward the east and other units proceeding via Perleberg-Kyritz toward the south;
 18th Mecz Div from the Wittstock training grounds via Nauen-Brandenburg;
 25th Gds RL Brig from Rathenow;
 3d Gds AT Brig from Rostock via Friesack-Nauen-Brandenburg;
 4th AT Brig from Prora/Ruegen via Kyritz-Nauen-Brandenburg;
 32d AAA Div from Frankfurt/Oder and Kuestrin; and, probably, light units of the elements of the 6th Arty Div, the 34th Arty Div and army artillery units of the Third Shock Army stationed in Altengrabow.
 b. The following rail shipments to the exercise area of units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps were reported by seven sources:

Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments	25X1
34th Arty Div	Potsdam	4	
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	3	
Army Units/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	2	
Army Units/Third Shock Army			ILLEGIB
Army Units/Third Shock Army	Vinzelberg	3	
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	1	
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	1	
18th Mecz Div	Dranse	1	
18th Mecz Div	Dranse	3	

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
4th Gds Arty Brig/ IX Mtz Rifle Corps and/or 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin	4
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Hagenow	2
10th Gds RL Regt/ IX Mtz Rifle Corps	Guestrow	2
18th Mecz Div	Wittstock	1
18th Mecz Div	Dranse	12
Corps Units/IX Mtz Rifle Corps and/or 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin	2
18th Mecz Div	Dranse-Parchim	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and/or 4th Gds Arty Brig	Schwerin	3
18th Mecz Div	Dranse	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Hagenow	1
18th Mecz Div	Dranse-Parchim	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Hagenow	1
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Schwerin) Hagenow) (Wismar)	1
Army Units/Third Shock Army or 19th Gds Mecz Div	Magdeburg	1
Army Units/Third Shock Army or 19th Gds Mecz Div	Hillersleben	7

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64

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Including the 20 engineer shipments, a total of 84 rail shipments were observed arriving in the exercise area. Forty-two shipments involved units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps, and 22 shipments units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps. On 29 September, elements of the 56th Motor Trans Regt of the GSFG transferred to Altengrabow. Observations at the post tended to indicate that units of the 66th Sig Regt of the GSFG from Potsdam-Stahnsdorf also participated in the exercise.

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In the evening of 28 September, combat elements of the following units which belonged to the Red (Attack) Party were apparently located in the area southeast of the Altengrabow training grounds:

Third Shock Army: 3d Gds AAA Div and other army units including 44th Army Arty Brig
20th Army AT Brig

IX Mtz Rifle Corps: 4th Gds Arty Brig
10th Gds RL Regt
an AAA Regt
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div
18th Mecz Div

IV Arty Corps: 6th Arty Div without 124th Hv How Brig
34th Arty Div with all brigades
25th Gds RL Brig
3d Gds AT Brig
4th AT Brig
32d AAA Div

- c. The concentration of the defense party (White Party) was accomplished rather unobtrusively as a result of the location of the defense positions. The LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps had only to move the 19th Gds Mecz Div and the 207th Mtz Rifle Div from the summer camps in the Letzling Heath and the Magdeburg and Stendal posts to the Elbe River. These movements were made at night and by road so that the participating units could not be identified. Observations from the posts, however, indicated that units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div from Magdeburg participated in a withdrawal exercise in the Elbe section north of Burg about 1 October; and [] the evacuation of the summer camps of the two divisions in the Letzling Heath between 24 and 26 September. The date of the return of the units, which, in some cases, was observed prior to the general termination of the exercise, also agreed with the assumption that these units participated in the exercises.

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Since, however, the Altengrabow area presumably was the first objective of attack of the Red Party, it is assumed that units of the White Party, possibly of the 136th Hv Gds Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army or tank units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div were transferred to the Altengrabow area for employment in the defense. For information on the employment of engineer units with the White Party, see paragraph 4 a.

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4. The exercise proper developed in three phases. During the first phase the attack party probably advanced through a deep obstacle zone (Altengrabow training grounds) and the defense party withdrew across the Elbe River. During the second phase, the Elbe River was crossed by the attack party and, during the third phase, the defense party was destroyed west of the Elbe River in the east section of Letzling Heath. In detail, the following observations were made:

- a. On 12 and 19 September, major elements of the engineer regiment Bernburg of the GSFG and engineer elements of the Second and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies, transferred to Altengrabow (see Annex 2). The construction of tent camps which probably were to quarter these units had been observed northwest of Altengrabow as early as 2 September. According to date of arrival and location of assembly area, it is assumed that the engineer units had to prepare an obstacle zone in the area of the Altengrabow training grounds. The area was probably occupied by the engineer units and elements from Hillersleben. After the attack party had passed the obstacle zone, the engineer units were attached to the Red Party and were probably employed on the Elbe River. This assumption is supported by the entraining of these units west of the Elbe River after the exercise. The White Party was located in defense positions west of the Elbe River between Buch and Rogatz, with security details in the Altengrabow area and as far forward as the general line east of Ihle Canal. It is believed that, in regard to the location of their posts, the 207th Mtz Rifle Div was employed northward in the Buch-Bittkau area and the 19th Gds Mecz Div southward in the Neu-Derben-Rogatz area. The first mentioned division assembled its tanks in the area southwest of Buch, apparently as reserve.

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- b. The Red Party apparently was to break through an obstacle zone with reinforced positions in the Altengrabow area, to prevent a new resistance east of the Elbe River by a swift pursuit and crossing of the Elbe River, and to destroy the enemy group west of the river.

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According to the entraining areas after the termination of the exercise, the 18th Gds Mecz Div may have been employed at the right and the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div at the left. The boundary between the units probably ran via Neu-Derben-Birkholz-Tangerhuetten-south of Gardelegen

and the left boundary ran via Burg-north of Colbitz-Born. Information on the loading stations also indicated that the two AT brigades of the IV Arty Corps were attached to the right attack group (tanks near Buch).

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The Red Party was equipped with approximately 1,000 guns including rocket launchers and mortars (excluding light mortars). With the initial frontage being estimated at approximately 8 km (4 km for each division), the passing of the obstacle zone was supported by heavy artillery employment (125 barrels per front km).

c.

The first elements of the attack party presumably reached the Elbe River on 1 October, the third day of the exercise, at a speed of 15 km per day. After the break-through through the obstacle zone, the attack frontage of the corps cannot have been identical with the width of the defense line (30 km) of the White Party. It is therefore assumed that the attack concentrated on two points and, without regard to remaining enemy groups, proceeded northwestward. The first elements of the Red Party probably crossed the river on 1 October whereas the bulk of the Red Party presumably followed during the night of 1/2 October after river crossing sites had been prepared. (Compare with paragraph 4 d).

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In the morning of 1 October, there were fights on the Ihle Canal during which a wooden bridge which had been constructed across the Dammkronne Canal by engineer units north of Burg near Parchau was blasted and a mine field south of the canal was exploded. At that time, the directing headquarters was probably located in Parchau, where numerous telephone lines converged. Parchau had to be vacated by civilians for 2 days.

All observations indicate that the river was crossed without a preceding stop or after only a short delay. On 2 and 3 October, the exercise terminated with the destroying of the White Party in the area between the Elbe River and the Letzling Heath. Compare with paragraph 4 b.

- d. The employment of the engineer units can be retraced from information on the unloading and loading sites. Only one bridge for heavy equipment could be confirmed near Parchau-Kehnert. The early arrival of the engineers on the Elbe River probably had two reasons:

first, the preparation of obstacles on either side of the river for the White Party; and second, the preparation of river crossing sites, possibly including bridge building practices, for the Red Party. This applies particularly to the unit of the GSFG which, with approximately 80 amphibious vehicles, practiced with the new equipment in the Guesen area. On the basis of the assumption that at least one crossing point for heavy equipment (tanks) and one auxiliary crossing point for light equipment was needed in each division attack section, and with a view to terrain and distribution and capacity of engineer units

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area possibly river crossing with ferries by engineer units from Bernburg and the IX Mtz Rifle Corps from Schwerin. (The crossing points mentioned are all

and the amphibious unit from Sperenberg. It is fairly definitely believed that the crossing points were covered by AA guns (32d AAA Div); the employment of the AAA regiment of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps was observed in the Guesen area. Special measures against atomic weapons were not observed during the entire exercise. ~~It is the 4 to 6 crossing points mentioned in the exercise.~~ It is however believed that this large-scale maneuver provided for the employment of atomic weapons as it was also observed during the 1954 fall maneuvers of the 12th Gds Tank Div.

- e. The forces of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army were of great importance during the maneuver. It is believed that the following units participated:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ground attack division | Brandenburg |
| Fighter divisions | Merseburg, Grossenhain and Zerbst |
| Reconnaissance Regt | Koethen (MiG-15) |
| and Artillery Observation regiment | Zerbst (Il-10) |
| Bomber regiment | Werneuchen and Briesen |
| Transport units | |

The following units were transferred in connection with their employment:

Ground attack regiment	Brandenburg-Briest	to Doeberitz
Fighter regiment	Merseburg	to Dessau
Fighter regiment		to Brandenburg-Briest

The ground attack units were employed in formations of up to 36 Il-10s with fighter escort, with the employment area moving westward to the Letzling Heath area during the exercise. Bomber units were employed at a strength of up to 27 Il-28s with fighter escort. MiG-15s, in addition to their reconnaissance and escort duties, participated in ground fights. A combined employment of fighters, ground attack planes and transport planes from the Doeberitz area toward Letzling Heath was observed on 3 October. The number of 30 to 50 transport planes tends to indicate that parachute troops were employed in the final phase of the exercise. The origin of the transport units cannot be determined. Since the transport regiments stationed at the Neubrandenburg and Schoenefeld airfields were not absent from their fields during the period concerned, it is believed that the participating transport units came from outside the zone. This was also observed in preceding years. Po-2 planes were repeatedly employed over the exercise area, probably as artillery observation planes. Five helicopters of type 36 were detached from the Neubrandenburg transport regiment for the duration of the exercise. The helicopters were presumably to serve as means of transportation for wounded personnel. 25X1

f.

5. With the departure of first elements in the evening of 3 October, the maneuver terminated in the Letzling Heath. A final phase in the Dölle area, which included the employment of air force units and, possibly, parachute troops, was apparently held in the presence of Marshal Zhukov, Army General Grechko, General Batov and the former German Field Marshal Paulus.

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- a. The bulk of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and wheeled elements of the other units, with a few exceptions, left again by road on and after the evening of 3 October. The return shipments of units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps from the Letzling Heath area between 4 and 7 October, which were observed [] included:

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	1
136th Gds Hv	Hillersleben	3
Tank SP Regt/		
Third Shock Army		
304th Arty Brig/	Letzlingen	1
LXXIX (Mtz Rifle Corps)		
44th Army Arty	Letzlingen	4
Brig/Third Shock		
Army and/or 6th		
Arty Div ?		
6th Arty Div	Mahlwinkel	1
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	12
88th Engr Regt/	Jerichow	1
Second Gds Mecz		
Army		
18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	1
6th Arty Div	Mahlwinkel	2
3d Engr Regt/	Jerichow	2
Fourth Gds Mecz		
Army		
88th Engr Regt/	Jerichow	1
2nd Gds Mecz		
Army		
22d Gds Engr Bn/	Vinzelberg	1
6th Gds Mecz Div		
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	1
304th Arty Brig/	Letzlingen	1
LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps		
Amphibious Vehicle	Guesen	3
Unit Sperenberg		
Engr 7/Eight Gds	Gardelegen	1
Army		
205th Engr Bn/12th	Vinzelberg	1
Gds Tank Div		
3d Gds AT Brig/IV	Tangermuende	1
Arty Corps		
AAA Regt/LXXIX Mtz	Guesen	3
Rifle Corps		
Army troops/Third	Gardelegen	1
Shock Army		
4th Gds Arty Brig/IX Mtz/	Mahlwinkel	4
Rifle Corps		
3d Gds AT Brig/	Tangermuende	2
IV Arty Corps		
10th Gds RL Regt/	Letzlingen	2
IX Mtz Rifle Corps		

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
18th Mecz Div	Vinzelberg	2
3d Gds AT Brig/	Tangermuende	1
IV Arty Corps		
3d Gds AT Brig/	Tangermuende	1
IV Arty Corps		
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	2
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Hillersleben	2
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	2
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	1
4th AT Brig/IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	1
18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
3d Gds AT Brig/IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	1
74th Tank SP Regt/94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	3
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
121st Gds Engr Bn/7th Gds Tank Div	Jaevenitz	2
32d AAA Div	Stendal	5
59th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	1
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
60th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	4
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
58th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinzelberg	2
58th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinzelberg	1
119th Hvy Gds Tank SP Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinzelberg	4

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The 96 return shipments are broken down as follows:

IX Mtz Rifle Corps	37 shipments
IV Arty Corps	29 shipments

Army troops/Third Shock	
Army and LXXIX Mtz	
Rifle Corps	18 shipments

Engineer units of the	
GSFG and various armies	12 shipments

There is no doubt that only part of the shipments were observed. The IX Mtz Rifle Corps, for example, arrived on 42 trains and the engineer units on 20 trains. It is believed [redacted] units involved left on approximately 110 trains. The fuel supply [redacted] Stuelper Forest returned to Magdeburg between 3 and 5 October [redacted] 3 and 24 October, the directing headquarters was returned to their posts after the dismantling of signal installations. Equipment which was left on the Elbe River was shipped away during the month of October.

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b. [redacted] September and 7 October, a total of approximately 200 trains approximately 8,000 railroad cars were dispatched in connection with [redacted]. It is believed that this large number of trains caused considerable operational difficulties, particularly in the Magdeburg railroad district. According to available information, railroad administration personnel and FDJ members were employed as train personnel.

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6. Summarizing, it can be said that the maneuvers of the Third Shock Army with regard to their scale, duration and number of participating units can be compared only with the 1952 fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army. The importance of the maneuver was stressed by the presence of Marshal [redacted], Army General Grechko and others. The units [redacted] were tested and trained in [redacted].
 - a. Loading and unloading of rail shipments, movements to and from the assembly areas at short notice.
 - b. Large-scale movements, motorized units on highways and mechanized roads, organization of fuel supply.
 - c. Defense of a river and delaying action.
 - d. Defense of strong points.
 - e. Pursuit after break-through through a deep obstacle zone, without regard to undestroyed enemy.
 - f. Crossing of a river [redacted] elements under difficult conditions (fortifications, obstacles, short [redacted]).
 - g. Combined employment of air force and ground units (ground attack planes, artillery observation planes, parachuter troops).
 - h. Warfare under conditions presupposing the employment of atomic weapons.

The location, scale and development of the maneuver was indicated by information on the shipments to and from the assembly areas and was supplemented by personal

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observations by the various sources. However, these observations which, because of strict security measures, were made from the border of the maneuver area, did not allow any conclusions as to combat tactics and training level of the units involved. The early observation of the assembling of engineers of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] units in an area east of the Elbe River definitely [REDACTED] the possibility that the large-scale movements were made in connection with preparations for aggressive operations.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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maneuvers of the Third Shock Army were received

reports on the fall

Information was forwarded in 64 military reports, which are summarized and evaluated as follows.

The exercise which, including the movements to and from the exercise area, lasted from 25 September to 7 October 1954, developed in four phases:

1 - 27 September (paragraph 2) Advance shipments of directing headquarters and engineer units

25 - 28 September (paragraph 3) Arrival in the Wiesenburg-Belzig-Brusck assembly area of the attack party (reinforced IX Mzt Rifle Corps)

Development of the exercise from the southeast (Altengrabow training grounds) toward the northwest (Letzling Heath) with crossing of the Elbe River.

4 - 7 October
(paragraph 5)

2. Advance shipments of the directing headquarters and engineer units of GSFG and the Second and Fourth Gds Mech Army to the exercise area between 1 and 17 September included:

6 small shipments of signal units of the Eighth Gds Army (from Apolda to Wiesenburg), the First Gds Mezz Army (from Dresden to Wiesenburg), the HQ GSFG (from Wuersdorf to Altengrabow and Hoetensleben), the Third Gds Mezz Army (from Trebbin to Altengrabow) and the Fourth Gds Mezz Army (from Eberswalde to Colbitz). These units were probably to prepare signal communications for the directing headquarters. Radio monitoring details were possibly employed on the zonal border near Hoetensleben west of Magdeburg. Engineer units moved to Altengrabow and the Elbe section between Burg and Ferchland (Jerichow?).

Between 12 and 19 September, the following shipments went to Altengradow:

4 shipments of units of the engineer regiment Bernburg of the GSFG and one shipment each of elements of the 22d Gds Engr Bn of the 6th Gds Macz Div, the 90th Gds Engr Bn of the 9th Gds Tank Div and the 205th Engr Bn of the 12th Gds Tank Div. Between 11 and 17 September 42, 800 tons of equipment and supplies were shipped to the following shipments went to Altengrabow:

Between 11 and 27 September the following shipments went to the above mentioned Elbe section:

Enger Regt Bernburg; elements with amphibious vehicles from Sperenberg to Guesen (3 shipments), in addition to 1 shipment with amphibious vehicles from the USSR), and small elements from Bernburg to Tangerhuetten (1 shipment).

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88th Bn. Pz. Div. (2 shipments);
 1st Bn. Pz. Div. (2 shipments);
 1st Bn. Pz. Div. (1 shipment);
 Unidentified engineer units (4 shipments);

36th Sd. Bn. Div. of the GSPU from Magdeburg by road.

More than 20 shipments of engineer units of the Second and Fourth Gds Mezz Armies and the two engineer regiments of the GSPU were observed en route to the exercise area. In addition to these units, engineer units of the Third Shock Army, engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army and the 7th Gds Tank Div which were observed during their departure also participated in the exercise, a total of approximately 10 engineer battalions is believed to have been employed. This tends to indicate that the employment of engineer units was one of the main problems of the exercise. For details, see paragraph 4 d.

Between 2 and 22 September, a fuel supply base, which was supplied from Magdeburg, was prepared by the Third Shock Army in the Staelper area east of Bitterfeld.

1. Between 21 and 28 September, the attack party (Red Party) assembled in the Brandenburg-Belzig-Bruck area. Armored elements arrived from posts and training areas by rail and wheeled elements by road. The large distances covered by road are not actually known since it is known that the Soviets usually prefer rail shipments in order to save material and fuel. Since, however, movements by road were also observed by other units during this year's maneuver, it is assumed that the transfer by road was made for training reasons.

2. Elements of the following units were observed en route to the exercise area by road:

Corps units of the IX Mz Rifle Corps from Schwerin;
 9th Gds Mz Rifle Div from Schwerin, Wismar and Hagenow, with some of the units proceeding west of the Elbe River via Wolmirstedt-Magdeburg toward the east and other units proceeding via Perleberg-Kyritz toward the south;
 18th Mezz Div from the Wittstock training grounds via Nauen-Brandenburg;
 10th Gds RL Bn. from Rathenow;
 1st Gds RL Bn. from Rostock via Friesack-Nauen-Brandenburg;
 1st Gds RL Bn. from Prora/Ruegen via Kyritz-Nauen-Brandenburg;
 1st AAA Div from Frankfurt/Oder and Kuestrin; and, probably, light units of the elements of the 6th Arty Div, the 34th Arty Div and army artillery units of the Third Shock Army stationed in Altengrabow.

3. The following rail shipments to the exercise area of units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps were reported by seven sources:

Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
34th Arty Div	Potsdam	4
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	3
Arty Units/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	2
Arty Units/Third Shock Army	Vinzelberg	
Arty Units/Third Shock Army	Vinzelberg	3
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	1
Arty Units/Third Shock Army and/or IV Arty Corps	Altengrabow	1
18th Mezz Div	Granse	1
19th Mezz Div	Granse	3

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
4th Gdn Arty Brig/ IX Mdz Rifle Corps and/or 94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin	4
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Hagenow	2
10th Gds RL Regt/ IX Mdz Rifle Corps	Gnestrow	2
18th Mdz Div	Wittstock	1
18th Mdz Div	Dranse	12
Corps Units/IX Mdz Rifle Corps and/or 94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin	2
18th Mdz Div	Dranse-Parchim	2
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div and/or 4th Gds Arty Brig	Schwerin	3
18th Mdz Div	Dranse	2
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Hagenow	1
18th Mdz Div	Dranse-Parchim	2
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin	1
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Hagenow	1
94th Gds Mdz Rifle Div	Schwerin) Hagenow) (Wismar)	1
Army Units/Third Shock Army or 19th Gds Mdz Div	Magdeburg	1
Army Units/Third Shock Army or 19th Gds Mdz Div	Hillersleben	2

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64

In addition to the 64 engineer shipments, a total of 64 rail shipments were observed during the exercise area. Forty-two shipments involved units of the IX Mdz Rifle Corps and 12 shipments units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps. The Panitzsch elements of the 56th Motor Trans Regt of the HQ GSAG transferred to Hagenow. Observations at the post tended to indicate that units of the 66th Sig Bn of the GSAG from Lohrman-Standort also participated in the exercise.

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On the evening of 28 September, combat elements of the following units which belonged to the Red (Attack) Party were apparently located in the area southeast of the Altengrabow training grounds:

Third Shock Army: 3d Gds AAA Div and other army units including 44th Army Arty Brig
20th Army AT Brig

LXX Mtz Rifle Corps: 4th Gds Arty Brig
10th Gds RL Regt
an AAA Regt
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div
18th Mecz Div

IV Arty Corps: 6th Arty Div without 124th Bv Eow Brig
34th Arty Div with all brigades
25th Gds RL Brig
3d Gds AT Brig
4th AT Brig
32d AAA Div

The concentration of the defense party (White Party) was accomplished rather unobtrusively as a result of the location of the defense positions. The LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps had only to move the 19th Gds Mecz Div and the 207th Mtz Rifle Div from the summer camps in the Letzling Heath and the Magdeburg and Stendal posts to the Elbe River. These movements were made at night and by road so that the participating units could not be identified. Observations from the posts, however, indicated that units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div from Magdeburg participated in a withdrawal exercise in the Elbe section north of Burg about 1 October; and another source reported the evacuation of the summer camps of the two divisions in the Letzling Heath between 24 and 26 September. The date of the return of the units, which in some cases was observed prior to the general termination of the exercise, also agreed with the assumption that these units participated in the exercise.

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Since, however, the Altengrabow area presumably was the first objective of attack of the Red Party, it is assumed that units of the White Party, possibly of the 136th Bv Gds Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army or tank units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div were transferred to the Altengrabow area for employment in the defense. For information on the employment of engineer units with the White Party, see paragraph 4 a.

4. The exercise proper developed in three phases. During the first phase the attack party probably advanced through a deep obstacle zone (Altengrabow training grounds) and the defense party withdrew across the Elbe River. During the second phase, the Elbe River was crossed by the attack party and, during the third phase, the defense party was destroyed west of the Elbe River in the east section of Letzling Heath. In detail, the following observations were made:

On 12 and 19 September, major elements of the engineer regiment Bernburg of the GSFG and engineer elements of the Second and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies, transferred to Altengrabow (see Annex 2). The construction of tent camps which probably were to quarter these units had been observed northwest of Altengrabow as early as 9 September. According to date of arrival and location of assembly area, it is assumed that the engineer units had to prepare an obstacle zone in the area of the Altengrabow training grounds. The area was probably occupied by the engineer units and elements from Hillersleben. After the attack party had passed the obstacle zone, the engineer units were attached to the Red Party and were probably employed on the Elbe River. This assumption is supported by the entraining of these units west of the Elbe River after the exercise. The White Party was located in defense positions west of the Elbe River between Buch and Rogatz, with security details in the Altengrabow area and as far forward as the general line east of Ihle Canal. It is believed that, in regard to the location of their posts, the 207th Mtz Rifle Div was employed northward in the Buch-Bittkau area and the 19th Gds Mecz Div southward in the Neu-Derben-Rogatz area. The first mentioned division assembled its tanks in the area southwest of Buch, apparently as reserve.

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- b. The Red Party apparently was to break through an obstacle zone with reinforced positions in the Altengrabow area, to prevent a new resistance east of the Elbe River by a swift pursuit and crossing of the Elbe River, and to destroy the enemy group west of the river.

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According to the entraining areas after the termination of the exercise, the 18th Gds Mecz Div may have been employed at the right and the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div at the left. The boundary between the units probably ran via Neu-Derben-Birkholz-Tangerhuetten-south of Gardalegen

and the left boundary ran via Burg-north of Colbitz-Born. Information on the loading stations also indicated that the two AI brigades of the IV Arty Corps were attached to the right attack group (tanks near Buch).

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The Red Party was equipped with approximately 1,000 guns including rocket launchers and mortars (excluding light mortars). With the initial frontage being estimated at approximately 2 km (4 km for each division), the passing of the obstacle zone was supported by heavy artillery employment (125 barrels per front km).

c.

The first elements of the attack party presumably reached the Elbe River on 1 October, the third day of the exercise, at a speed of 15 km per day. After the break-through through the obstacle zone, the attack frontage of the corps cannot have been identical with the width of the defense line (30 km) of the White Party. It is therefore assumed that the attack concentrated on two points and, without regard to remaining enemy groups, proceeded northwestward. The first elements of the Red Party probably crossed the river on 1 October whereas the bulk of the Red Party presumably followed during the night of 1/2 October after river crossing sites had been prepared. (Compare with paragraph 4 d).

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In the morning of 1 October, there were fights on the Ihle Canal during which a wooden bridge which had been constructed across the Dammkronne Canal by engineer units north of Burg near Parchau was blasted and a mine field south of the canal was exploded. At that time, the directing headquarters was probably located in Parchau, where numerous telephone lines converged. Parchau had to be vacated by civilians for 2 days.

All observations indicate that the river was crossed without a preceding stop or after only a short assembly. On 2 and 3 October, the exercise terminated with the destroying of the White Party in the area between the Elbe River and the Letzing Heath. Compare with paragraph 4 b.

- d. The employment of the engineer units can be retraced from information on the unloading and loading sites. Only one bridge for heavy equipment could be confirmed near Parchau-Kehnert. The early arrival of the engineers on the Elbe River probably had two reasons:

first, the preparation of obstacles on either side of the river for the White Party; and second, the preparation of river crossing sites, possibly including bridge building practices, for the Red Party. This applies particularly to the unit of the GSFG which, with approximately 80 amphibious vehicles, practiced with the new equipment in the Guesen area. On the basis of the assumption that at least one crossing point for heavy equipment (tanks) and one auxiliary crossing point for light equipment was needed in each division attack section, and with a view to terrain and distribution and capacity of engineer units employed, the following possibilities are offered:

In the section of the 18th Mecz Div: the construction of a pontoon bridge for heavy equipment in the Ferchland area and of a pontoon bridge for light equipment in the Jerichow-Buch area by engineer units of the Second and Fourth Gds Mecz Divs in the Litzkau

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area, possibly river crossing with ferries by engineer units from Bernburg and the 11 Pz Rifle Corps from Schwerin. (The crossing points mentioned are all known and frequently utilized).

Members of the 12th Gds Meas Rifle Div. the construction of a bridge for heavy equipment and a bridge for light equipment (amphibious hasty bridge) in the Lötzing area by engineer units of the CSFG from Sporenberg and Magdeburg.

The river march of Bogatz presumably crossing with ferries, and crossing. This march was possibly accomplished with the help of the division engineer units and the amphibious unit from Sporenberg. It is fairly definitely believed that the crossing points were covered by AA guns (32d AAA Div); the employment of the AAA regiment of the 12th Pz Rifle Corps was observed in the Quesen area. Special weapons units of the 12th Pz Rifle Corps were not observed during the entire exercise.

It is however believed that this maneuver provided for the employment of atomic weapons as it was also observed during the 1964 fall maneuvers of the 12th Gds 12th Div.

The forces of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army were of great importance during the maneuvers. It is believed that the following units participated:

Ground attack division	Brandenburg
Fighter divisions	Merseburg, Grossenhain and Zerbst
Reconnaissance Regt	Koethen (MiG-15)
and Artillery Group	
Infantry regiment	Zerbst (MiG-15)
Artillery regiment	Wernauchen and Briesen
Transport units	

The following units were transferred in connection with their employment:

Ground attack regiment	Brandenburg-Briest	to Doberitz
Fighter regiment	Merseburg	to Dessau
Fighter regiment		to Brandenburg-Briest

The ground attack units were employed in formations of up to 36 IL-10s with fighter escort, with the employment area moving westward to the Lötzing Heath area during the exercise. Fighter units were employed at a strength of up to 27 IL-28s with fighter escort. MiG-15s, in addition to their reconnaissance and escort duties, participated in ground fights. A combined employment of fighters, ground attack planes and transport planes from the Doberitz area toward Lötzing Heath was observed on 3 October. The number of 30 to 50 transport planes tends to indicate that parachute troops were employed in the final phase of the exercise. The origin of the transport units cannot be determined. Since the transport regiments stationed at the Neubrandenburg and Schoenefeld airfields were not absent from their fields during the period concerned, it is believed that the participating transport units came from outside the zone. This was also observed in preceding years. Fo-2 planes were reportedly employed over the exercise area, probably as artillery observation planes. Five helicopters of type 36 were detached from the Neubrandenburg transport regiment for the duration of the exercise. The helicopters were presumably to serve as means of transportation for wounded personnel.

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2. With the departure of first elements in the evening of 3 October, the maneuver terminated in the Lötzing Heath. A final phase in the Döle area, which included the employment of air force units and, possibly, parachute troops, was apparently held in the presence of Marshal Zhukov, Army General Grechko, General Batov and the former German Field Marshal Paulus.

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- a. The bulk of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and wheeled elements of the other units, with a few exceptions, left again by road on and after the evening of 3 October. The return shipments of units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps from the Letzling Heath area between 4 and 7 October, which were observed included:

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	1
136th Gds Hq	Hillersleben	3
Tank SP Regt/ Third Shock Army		
304th Arty Brig/ LXXIX (Mtz Rifle Corps)	Letzlingen	1
44th Army Arty Brig/Third Shock Army and/or 6th Arty Div ?	Letzlingen	4
6th Arty Div	Mahlwinkel	1
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	12
88th Engr Regt/ Second Gds Mecz Army	Jerichow	1
18th Mecz Div	Moeschingen	1
6th Arty Div	Mahlwinkel	2
3d Engr Regt/ Fourth Gds Mecz Army	Jerichow	2
88th Engr Regt/ 2nd Gds Mecz Army	Jerichow	1
22d Gds Engr Bn/ 6th Gds Mecz Div	Vinselberg	1
34th Arty Div	Tangerhuetten	1
304th Arty Brig/ LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps	Letzlingen	1
Amphibious Vehicle Unit Sperenberg	Guesen	3
Engr ?/Eight Gds Army	Gardelagen	1
205th Engr Bn/12th Gds Tank Div	Vinselberg	1
3d Gds AT Brig/IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	1
AAA Regt/LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps	Guesen	3
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Gardelagen	1
4th Gds Arty Brig/IX Mtz Rifle Corps	Mahlwinkel	4
3d Gds AT Brig/ IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	2
10th Gds RL Regt/ IX Mtz Rifle Corps	Letzlingen	2

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Unit	Entraining Area	Number of Shipments
18th Mecz Div	Vinsalberg	2
3d Gds AT Brig/	Tangermuende	1
IV Arty Corps		
3d Gds AT Brig/	Tangermuende	1
IV Arty Corps		
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	2
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Hillersleben	2
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	2
Army troops/Third Shock Army	Jaevenitz	1
4th AT Brig/IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	1
18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
3d Gds AT Brig/IV Arty Corps	Tangermuende	1
74th Tank SP Regt/94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	3
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
121st Gds Engr Bn/7th Gds Tank Div	Jaevenitz	2
32d AAA Div	Stendal	5
59th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Jaevenitz	1
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
60th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	4
33d Tank Regt/18th Mecz Div	Moehringen	2
94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	Gardelegen	1
58th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinsalberg	2
58th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinsalberg	1
119th Hv Gds Tank SP Regt/18th Mecz Div	Vinsalberg	4

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96

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The 96 return shipments are broken down as follows:

IX Mtz Rifle Corps	37 shipments
IV Arty Corps	29 shipments

Army troops/Third Shock Army and LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps	18 shipments
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Engineer units of the GSFG and various armies	12 shipments
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There is no doubt that only part of the shipments were observed. The IX Mtz Rifle Corps, for example, arrived on 42 trains and the engineer units on 20 trains. It is believed that the units involved left on approximately 110, trains. The fuel supply base in Stuelper Forest returned to Magdeburg between 3 and 5 October. Between 3 and 24 October, the directing headquarters returned to their posts after the dismantling of signal installations. Equipment which was left on the Elbe River was shipped away during the month of October.

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- b. Between 25 September and 7 October, a total of approximately 200 trains with approximately 8,000 railroad cars were dispatched in connection with the maneuver. It is believed that this large number of trains caused considerable operational difficulties, particularly in the Magdeburg railroad district. According to available information, railroad administration personnel and PDJ members were employed as train personnel.
6. Summarizing, it can be said that the maneuvers of the Third Shock Army with regard to their scale, duration and number of participating units can be compared only with the 1952 fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army. The importance of the maneuver was stressed by the presence of Marshal Zhukov, Army General Grechko and others. The units participating were tested and trained in the following areas:
- Loading and unloading of rail shipments; movements to and from the assembly areas at short notice.
 - Large-scale movements of motorized units on highways and macadamized roads; organization of fuel supply.
 - Defense of a river and delaying action.
 - Defense of strong points.
 - Pursuit after break-through through a deep obstacle zone, without regard to undestroyed enemy elements.
 - Crossing of a river by major elements under difficult conditions (fortifications, obstacles, short time)
 - Combined employment of air force and ground units (ground attack planes, artillery observation planes, parachute troops).
 - Warfare under conditions presupposing the employment of atomic weapons.

The location, scale and development of the maneuver was indicated by information on the shipments to and from the assembly areas and was supplemented by personal

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observations by the various sources. However, these observations which, because of strict security measures, were made from the border of the maneuver area, did not allow any conclusions as to combat tactics and training level of the units involved. The early observation of the assembling of engineers of of the GSFG and of several armies in an area east of the Elbe River definitely excluded the possibility that the large-scale movements were made in connection with preparations for aggressive operations.



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